losses, improvements in Plant Load Factor (PLF), equity participation by the State Governments, opening of Letters of Credit by SEBs with the generation companies such as National Thermal Power Corporation, Powergrid Corporation etc.

Power generation capacity in the country

666. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER 3c pleased to state:

(a) what is the total power generation ;apacity in the country as on 15th "cbruary, 1997;

(b) what capacity is required to meet he demand and what is the amount of noney required in this regard;

(c) the details of steps taken including Private sector participation to achieve the goal; and

(d) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. /ENUGOPALACHARI): (a) As per the atcst available data, total power encration capacity in the country as on 1.1.1997 is 83510.84 MW.

(b) The Ninth Plan is under nalisation. However, it is assessed that a ccd based capacity addition of around 7,000 MW and a fund requirement of ver Rs. 3,00,000 crores for generation, ransmission and distribution schemes would be needed to meet the projected lemand for power during the Plan.

(c) and (d) The policy initiatives taken this regard, inter alia, include ncouraging private sector participation y providing more liberal administrative, :gal and financial environment, treamlining and simplification of equirements for clearances, short and ong term measures to improve roductivity of existing assets and icilitating reforms and restructuring of tate Electricity Boards. A Common linimum National Action Plan has been adopted tn December, 1996 for improving the performance of power sector in a time bound manner.

Growth rate of power generation

667. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of power generation during the financial year 1995-96 and during the period from April to December, 1996;

(b) the reasons for the sharp decline;

(c) the targeted rate of growth and estimated achievement during 1996-97; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to accelerate power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The growth in power generation during 1995-96 and April—December, 1996 over the corresponding period of previous years was 8.3% and 3.5% respectively. The main reason for decline in growth rate of power generation during the current year is fall in hydel power generation.

(c) During Apri.l—December, 1996 power generation in the country was 291.5 BU compared to power generation of 281.6 BU during April—December, 1995 which represent a growth rate of 3.6% against the target rate of growth of 5.1% fixed for 1996-97.

(d) Amongst the measures undertaken for increasing power generation are higher utilisation of installed capacity, reducing auxiliary power consumption, modernisation and uprating of existing power stations and initiating schemes for reducing transmission and distribution losses.